



TOWN OF KNIGHTDALE
PLANNING AND ENGINEERING COMMITTEE
Meeting Minutes

950 Steeple Square Court, Knightdale, North Carolina 27545

June 11, 2012

The Knightdale Planning and Engineering Committee met in the upstairs conference room in the Town of Knightdale Town Hall at 6:00 p.m. on June 11, 2012.

ITEM I. CALL TO ORDER

...Councilor Gleason called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m., Monday, June 11, 2012.

ATTENDING: Councilor Gleason, Councilor Tripp, Mark Swan, Fred Boone, Chris Hills, Jennifer Currin, Andy Specht, Jeff Triezenberg, Myron Kelly, Pam Yancey

ITEM II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

... Mr. Kelly moved to approve the May 14, 2012 minutes. Councilor Tripp seconded. Without objection the motion carried.

ITEM III. OLD BUSINESS

A. Stormwater Utility and Mapping Project Update

Fred Boone stated that the storm water utility charges were on schedule to start billing with Raleigh in July. There will be a statement in the May and June City of Raleigh water bills letting residents know about an additional line item that will added to their bill beginning in July.

Mr. Boone also presented to the Committee that two-thirds of the mapping has been completed on the Stormwater Mapping Project. A grant reimbursement request was filed with the state and a \$15,000 reimbursement check has already been received in the mail.

B. Capital Projects Update

First Ave. Phase One - Fred Boone explained that the finishing touches are being put on the First Avenue Phase One design to be approved by DOT. Staff believes they are on track to minimize the original cost projected; however there have been some unforeseen problems discovered while digging. An example of such a problem is the waterline discovered at the intersection of First Avenue and Robertson St. Despite the conflicts that have been encountered the project is moving forward.

First Ave Phase II - Mr. Boone stated that they are resoliciting bids for this project and the bid opening is scheduled for June 21st at 2:00 pm.

Mingo Creek Greenway - Mr. Boone reported that DOT has requested construction authorization from the FHWA. That process usually takes about 4 weeks and the town is 25% into it.

Knightdale Park - The pre-construction meeting concerning the Knightdale Park went well. PLT Construction will now have 14 days to begin construction.

BB&T Right Turn Lane - Mr. Boone also reported that the BB&T right turn lane pre-construction meeting is scheduled within next two weeks. Councilor Gleason questioned if the construction would begin about the same time as the "Biggest Loser" auditions would be taking place and that it could possibly affect traffic.

Chris Hills explained that buses would be transporting people from the Shoppes at Midway parking lots to the Rex Wellness building for the auditions and that should help ease traffic congestion.

Fred Boone and Councilor Tripp discussed the traffic calming project in Brookfield Station. Mr. Boone stated he is currently getting quotes on pricing for install. The plan is to install traffic calming speed bumps at Crossie Street to slow down the traffic on the straightaway there.

C. Pedestrian Plan Update

Jeff Triezenberg reported on the most recent Pedestrian Plan Steering Committee meeting. About a dozen people attended The Pedestrian Design Charette workshop on Saturday, June 2nd discussing three specific locations. The areas of Smithfield Rd. and First Ave., Hodge Rd. from Hodge Rd. Elementary to the railroad tracks, and the 540 Interchange at Knightdale Blvd. were studied and the Committee discussed how to make these areas more accessible for pedestrians. The same group participated in a walking tour of First Avenue to identify problems with pedestrian traffic in this area. The consultant team of Withers and Ravenel will have a draft of the Pedestrian Plan ready by the end of the month. Once received staff will distribute the plan to Steering Committee members so that Committee members will be able to discuss at the next meeting which is scheduled for mid-July.

Chris Hills reminded everyone to continue to document "goat paths" in the area and to take pictures if possible.

D. Arbor Day Event Update

Chris Hills reported that the Arbor Day Event that had previously been postponed will be held this Friday June 15, at 2:00 pm at Harper Park. Staff will hold an art contest among the children attending Track Out Camp and the winner will receive a \$25 gift card. All art contest participants will receive a sapling to plant at their home. Mr. Hills stated there will be a representative from the Division of Forestry attending to present a certificate that names the Town of Knightdale as Tree City, USA.

Councilor Gleason stated he would attend the Arbor Day Event and he would be available to read the Arbor Day Proclamation.

E. Park Naming

Chris Hills reported that the Land Use Review Board and the Old Town Oversight Committee will make their recommendations for the top 5 choices naming the Knightdale Park. The final list of possible name should be complete by next month with the goal of presenting the choices to Town Council at the first meeting in August.

ITEM IV. NEW BUSINESS

A. Fee Schedule for Multiple Grass Abatements

Fred Boone proposed a possible new fee schedule for grass mowing services. At this time the charges to a resident for the Town to mow a quarter acre lot would cost \$75-\$100. That fee is low compared to other municipalities. Also the current charge is low considering that many of the lawns that are mowed are repeat offenders. The current expense involved considering straight time, labor, and equipment is \$80-\$100. Staff suggests that a multiplier be added to mowing charges if a resident requires mowing services more than once.

Chris Hills added that the any change in the fee schedule would require an ordinance amendment.

Mr. Boone stated that he would present a more comprehensive plan at a future Town Council meeting.

B. OTOC Recommendation – No Parking in Front Yards

Jeff Triezenberg reported from the Old Town Oversight Committee that there is a concern about front yard parking. This is not seen as an extreme problem at this time but it is a concern that has increased over the past three years. Mr. Triezenberg stated that there would be two possible approaches to handling this issue. The first would be to create a new text amendment and apply it city wide. The second option would be to create an overlay district that would draw new boundaries. Upon further discussion it was decided not to pursue action on this issue at this time.


ITEM V. OTHER BUSINESS

Chris Hills informed the committee that Jeff Triezenberg has done a great job of branding the new Greenway System. The Capital Project Committee voted to utilize the basic format of the City of Raleigh signage plan using their specifications but modifying it by using the color scheme chosen for the new Town of Knightdale website. Mr. Triezenberg accompanied Parks and Recreation Director Tina Cheek to a Parks & Recreation development workshop and came up with the idea to use a boardwalk over water graphic as the new Greenway logo. Upon reviewing a picture of the proposed graphic the Committee approved and instructed Mr. Triezenberg to present it to Town Council.

ITEM VI. ADJOURNMENT

... Without objection, the meeting was adjourned at 6:35 p.m.


Attest, Councilor Gleason


Clerk to the Planning and Engineering Committee, Pam Yancey